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Reserve

MICHIGAN NATIONAL FOREST

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THE AU SABLE RIVER AT FOOTE DAM

F-42118A

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

FOREST



SERVICE



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MICHIGAN NATIONAL FOREST

THE NATIONAL FORESTS



HE national forests are lands that have been set aside for growing timber, and for preserving the forest cover which regulates the flow of streams. They contain about 159,000,000 acres, and are distributed in 33 States, from the Atlantic to the Pacific Oceans, with two in Alaska and one in Porto Rico.

In addition to timber and related resources, such a vast territory affords ideal conditions for camping, fishing, and other forms of out-of-door recreation. The organization which administers these resources, so vital to the nation's economic needs, is the Forest Service. Its aims in administration are to secure the greatest perpetual use of all the forest resources consistent with the primary purposes of growing timber and preserving the forest cover; that is, to make the national forests render the greatest possible service to the public.



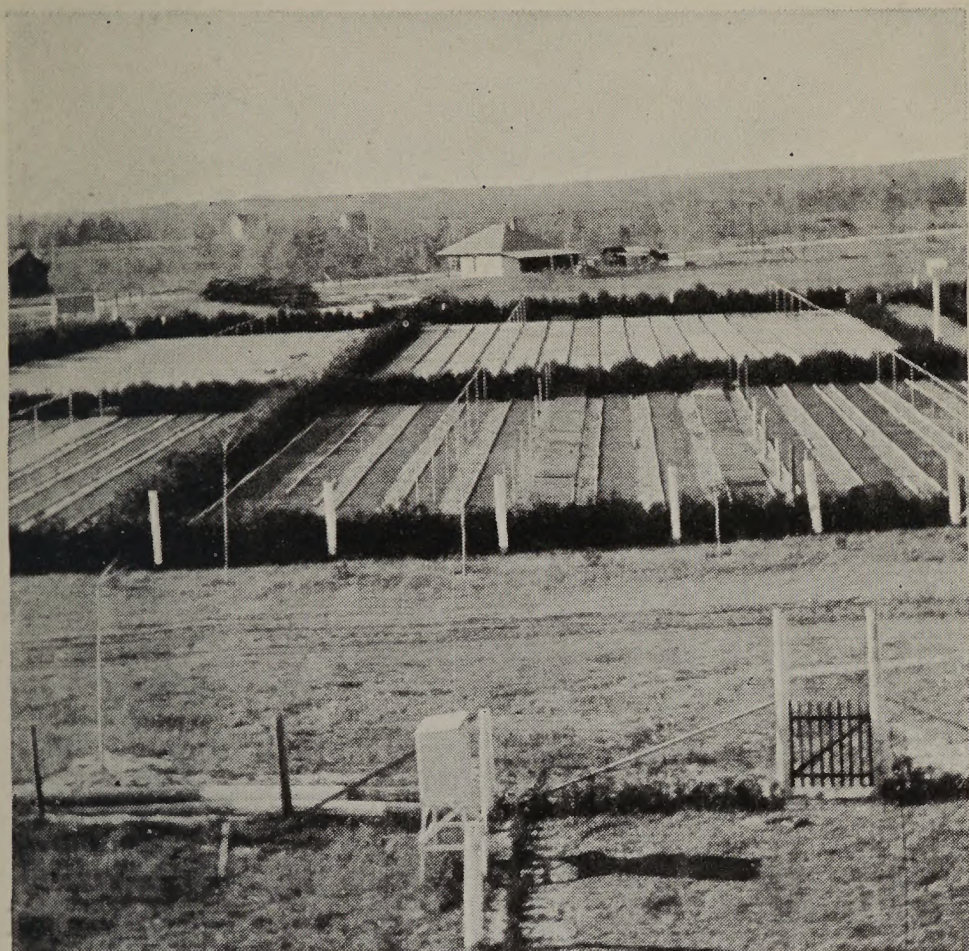
PLANTING TREES ON THE FOREST

F-49400A

The Michigan National Forest and its surroundings, as viewed from an airplane, would look much like a great rug spread out below, with no topographic contours, and, strangely enough, no vast, deep green expanse of timber such as is generally expected in a forest. Alternating patches of many shades of green

interspersed with tan and yellow, make up the body of the color in our carpet, outlined and divided by the tracery of many fine lines.

But why, in a forest, these many shades and colors; why the network of design? The tan and yellow are areas of grass land that have long lain idle, producing nothing. The various shades of green are scrubby growths of jack pine and oak, with here and there a few white pines. Along the winding course



DEAL NURSERY AT EAST TAWAS

F-122368

(Where all trees that are planted on the Forest are grown from seed)

of some stream a darker shade of green indicates the presence of alders and spruce; while the characteristic, regular rows in many large square fields distinguish the planted areas, a forest in the making. The many lines that cross and recross are roads—some at regular intervals along the section lines, others winding at random—also telephone lines and firebreaks.

This strange composite is largely the result of a type of forest use which was common in a day when the Lake States were the center of timber production for the entire United States. Timber was mined much as ore might have been mined from the earth, without the thought of a future crop. Nothing was

left in many cases but slash and débris, which, because of their inflammability, led to frequent fires. This fire hazard was especially high during the fall when the woods were full of berry pickers. Not only were fires not avoided, but often they were encouraged, since it was commonly thought that frequent burnings benefited the berry crop. Whether it did or not, it certainly did not benefit the timber crop; for soon it became possible to drive over these areas and see in every direction for miles without any interruption, except an occasional pine or clump of oaks. As the land became completely cleared it was opened to homesteading. But it was not farm land, and the few attempts made to use it as such failed early when the poor, sandy soil refused to support crops under the bleaching midsummer sun.



NORWAY PINE PLANTATION

F-182238

HISTORY

Since 1908 the lands comprised in the Michigan National Forest have been under the supervision of the United States Forest Service. The first duty of the service in taking care of this potential resource—for at the time it was taken over it amounted to no more—was fire protection; and during the 20 years of national forest administration this activity has remained continuously in first place among the jobs of the local officers. Meanwhile, with this protection, the jack pine, which is a prolific seeder, has been industriously at work, with the result that many of the

open places have been seeded. No longer can a traveler in this region look out across the country for miles. His vision is abruptly halted by some nearby clump of this or some other thrifty species which, under protection, has made rapid progress toward reclaiming the land. These trees are even now providing good fuel for local people, and promise in the future to yield railroad ties and some common grades of lumber. Unfavorable conditions, caused by repeated fires in the past, will make it impossible to produce high grade timber on many portions of the forest for a number of years, but with the gradual reclaiming of the land, even by stands of inferior quality, conditions will be improved and will eventually make possible the production of the class of timber that was once typical.

REFORESTATION

Out of the 89,000 acres in the Michigan National Forest, there remains about 60,000 on which destruction by fire was so complete that natural reproduction could not be depended upon to regenerate the forest and it is necessary to resort to planting. This is especially true of some of the more valuable species, such as white and Norway pine, which were killed out by fire much more than the jack pine. As a result of experiments with many species, Norway pine has been chosen as the one which combines more desirable qualities for planting than any other species. It requires little from the soil, is subject to but few diseases and insects, grows rapidly, reproduces well, and yields a very high quality of product.

All the planting stock for this work is raised in the Beal Nursery at East Tawas. A little over 4,000,000 trees comprise the capacity of the plant, about one-third of which are transplanted to the forest every year on attaining the age of two years. Thus far about 9,000 acres have been planted to Norway pine with very gratifying results. The survival is about eighty-five per cent; but more convincing than figures or percentages is the sight of these young trees stretching row after row across land which was once barren and idle, promising to Michigan future resources in both timber and outdoor recreation.



IMPROVED PUBLIC CAMP GROUND ON FOREST F-47764A

RECREATION

The Michigan National Forest affords special opportunities to the public for outdoor recreation. On account of its accessibility to motor cars and because of the fact that it is open to free travel and camping by the public, it is rapidly becoming a very popular vacation ground. Seekers after recreation in this great outdoors will find their opportunity here with a minimum of restriction. Care with fire and essential sanitation requirements are enforced by the Forest Service, but otherwise the recreationist is free to enjoy his own favorite vacation as he wishes.



FISHING FOR TROUT IN SILVER CREEK

F-47966A

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE MICHIGAN NATIONAL FOREST

Area: 170,172 acres (gross). (Acreage compiled June 30, 1926.)

Location: Iosco, Oscoda, Alcona, Ogemaw, and Chippewa Counties.

3 ranger districts.

5 ranger stations.

4 modern steel lookout towers.

28 miles of standard telephone lines.

36 miles of fire lines.

343 miles of roads.

5 improved free public camp grounds.

Beal Nursery.—A most modern forest nursery of approximately four acres in East Tawas where all trees planted on the forest are grown from seed.

3,000 to 4,000 acres have been planted each year to Norway pine.

Present plans call for a program of 5,000 acres per annum.

Approximately 17,000 acres, total, now planted to Norway, white, and Scotch pine.

50,000 acres in need of planting.

The cost per acre for planting in the Michigan National Forest is probably lower than in any other place in the United States.

The rate of survival among planted trees is a record for large scale planting in the United States.

700 trees are planted per acre.

The forest is situated in a region of very high fire hazard and care must be used by everyone to help keep fires from entering the forest. Observe the "Rules for Fire Prevention" outlined in this folder.

Practically all parts of the forest can be reached by automobile.

Roads are marked by direction signs to guide travelers through the forest.

The historic Au Sable River borders the Tawas and Mio districts and is a remarkable fishing stream.

Silver Creek, which is a very good trout stream, runs through the Tawas District.

Forest supervisor's office, East Tawas, Mich.

SIX RULES FOR HEALTH PROTECTION

1. *Purification*.—Streams will not purify themselves in a few hundred feet. Boil or chlorinate all suspected water.

2. *Garbage*.—Burn or bury all garbage, papers, tin cans, and old clothes

3. *Excretions*.—Bury a foot deep all human excrement at least 200 feet from streams, lake, or springs.

4. *Washings*.—Do not wash soiled clothing, utensils, or bodies in streams, lakes, or springs. Use a container and throw dirty water on ground, away from water supply.

5. *Toilets*.—Use public toilets where available. They are properly located. Toilets should be at least 200 feet from streams and not in gulches.

6. *Observe Laws*.—Observe rules and endeavor to have others do the same. National and State laws inflict heavy penalties for health law violations. Report all violations or insanitary conditions (including dead animals) to nearest health officer or United States forest officer.



THE HISTORICALLY FAMOUS AU SABLE RIVER

F-190529

IT IS EASIER TO PREVENT THAN TO EXTINGUISH
FOREST FIRES. BE CAREFUL WITH YOUR CAMP FIRE,
YOUR MATCH, AND YOUR CIGARETTE.



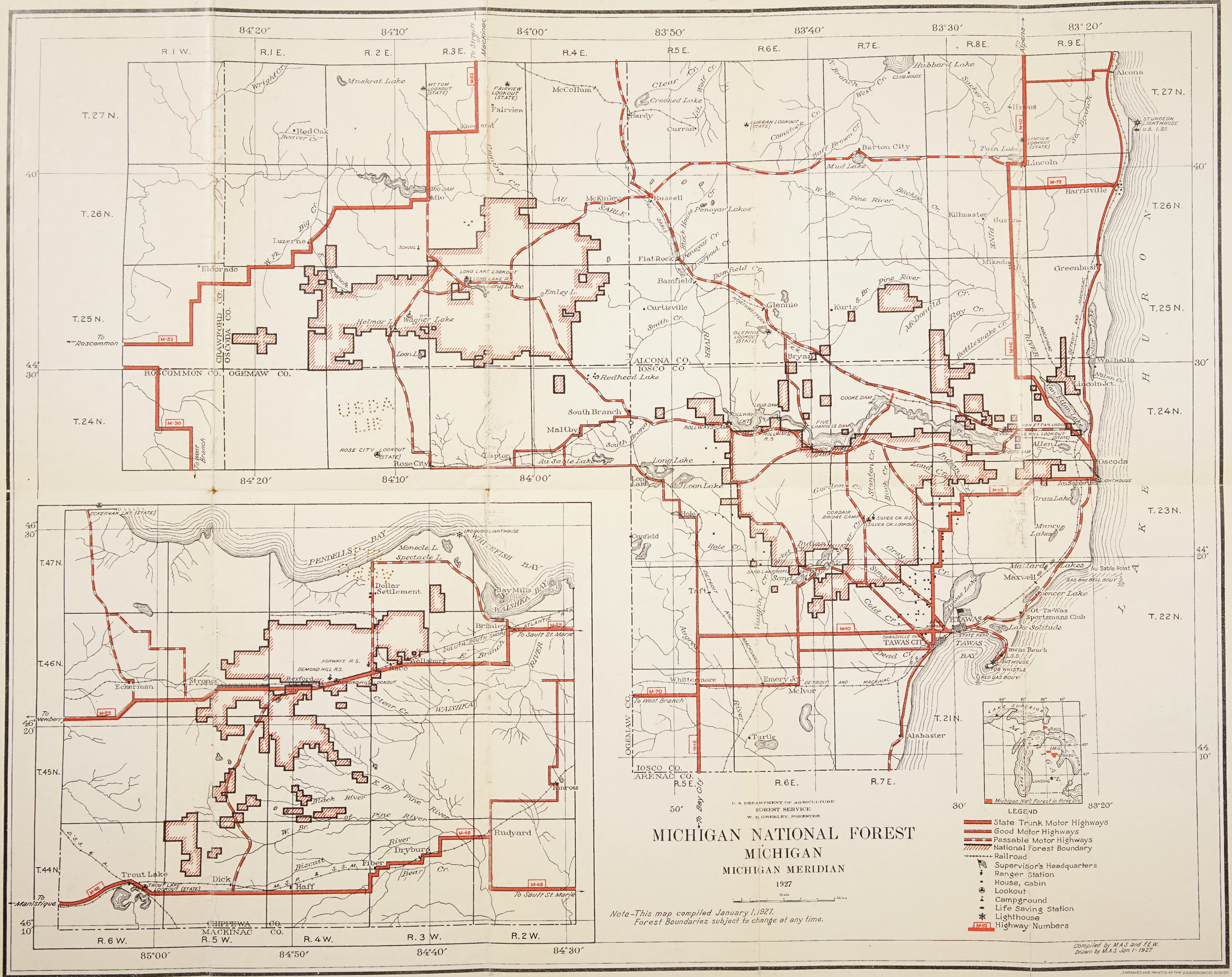
LONG LAKE LOOKOUT TOWER

F-190359

FIRE

Fire in the past has exacted a heavy tribute from the area which is now the Michigan National Forest. In less carefully protected portions of the State it continues to spread desolation. Although now this menace to the forest is combated by the suppression of individual fires as they occur, constant effort is being made to reduce losses through prevention, since practically all of the fires are the result of carelessness and could be avoided. Please read and observe the fire rules.

EVERYBODY LOSES WHEN TIMBER BURNS



MICHIGAN NATIONAL FOREST

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SIX RULES FOR PREVENTING FIRE IN THE FORESTS

1. *Matches.*—Be sure your match is out. Break it in two before you throw it away.

2. *Tobacco.*—Be sure that pipe ashes and cigar or cigarette stubs are dead before throwing them away. Never throw them into brush, leaves, or needles.

3. *Making camp.*—Before building a fire scrape away all inflammable material from a spot 5 feet in diameter. Dig a hole in the center and in it build your camp fire. Keep your fire small. Never build it against trees or logs or near brush.

4. *Breaking camp.*—Never break camp until your fire is out—dead out.

5. *Brush burning.*—Never burn slash or brush in windy weather or while there is the slightest danger that the fire will get away.

6. *How to put out a camp fire.*—Stir the coals while soaking them with water. Turn small sticks and drench both sides. Wet the ground around the fire. Be sure the last spark is dead.

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